



## ARIZONA COMMISSION ON HOMELESSNESS AND HOUSING

---

### Commission Meeting

Tuesday, January 21, 2014

10:00 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.

DES Director's Conference Room

1717 W Jefferson Street, Phoenix, Arizona 85007

### Meeting Minutes

#### **Commissioners Present:**

Michael Traylor, Co-Chair, Arizona Department of Housing (ADOH); Clarence H. Carter, Co-Chair, Department of Economic Security (DES); Cory Nelson (Sitting in for Will Humble), Arizona Department of Health Services (ADHS); Darlene Newsom, United Methodist Outreach Ministries (UMOM); Jenifer Thornton, City of Sierra Vista; Karen Hellman (Sitting in for Charles Ryan), Arizona Department of Corrections (ADC); Mark Holleran, Central Arizona Shelter Services (CASS); Sean Price (Sitting in for Ted Vogt), Arizona Department of Veteran's Services (AZDVS) and Terri Leveton, Nova Safe Haven.

#### **Commissioners Absent:**

Brian Spicker, Valley of the Sun United Way (VSUW); Charles Ryan, ADC; David Sherman, The Salvation Army, White Mountain Outpost; Frank Migali, Department of Education (ADE); Robert Halliday, Arizona Department of Public Safety (DPS); Tammy Paz-Combs, Governor's Office for Children, Youth and Families (GOCYF); Ted Vogt, AZDVS; Ted Williams, Arizona Behavioral Health Corporation (ABC) and Will Humble, ADHS.

#### **Staff Present:**

Melanie Starns, DES; Lynn Larson, DES; Raoul Sada, DES; Donna Bleyle, DES; Barbara Mikkelsen, DES; April Miles, ADHS; Danelle Valenzuela, ADHS; Karia Basta, ADOH; Michelle Skurka, ADHS and Priscilla Cruz, DES.

#### **Guests Present:**

Patti Caldwell, Our Family Services.

#### **Welcome and Introductions:**

Co-Chair Traylor called the meeting to order at 10:07 a.m. and welcomed everyone to the meeting.

#### **Approval of the Minutes:**

Co-Chair Carter called for a motion to approve the Tuesday, November 19, 2013 meeting minutes as written. The motion for approval was issued by Terri Leveton and seconded by Jenifer Thornton. The Commissioners in attendance approved the motion with the exception of Jenifer Thornton who abstained due to her absence at the November meeting.

#### **Accomplishments Report:**

Co-Chair Traylor reviewed the Arizona Commission on Homelessness and Housing's accomplishments of the last four years since Governor Brewer established the commission. Co-Chair Traylor reviewed the original six initiatives proposed to the Commission in March 2010 and the outcome of the initial work group. In July 2011, final reports were presented from the work group with an outline of opportunities, gaps, obstacles and recommendations to be considered in order to move forward with the existing action plan. In 2012 four Committees were established in order to work on the established

goals and objectives, which are: Housing Committee, Homeless Services Committee, Data Management Committee and Studies and Survey Committee. In July 2012 the Studies and Surveys Committee conducted the first ever statewide survey of over 1,300 homeless individuals. In October 2012 the Housing Committee introduced the Housing Locator Tool which connects Case Managers and Housing Specialists with online information about affordable housing and services. In 2013 the Housing Committee continued its work with the Locator tool, training service providers on its use. The Studies and Surveys Committee retained the Morrison Institute to analyze data from the 2012 Summer Survey and prepare a report for future planning and policy recommendations. Also in 2013 the Continuum of Care were invited to become a fifth Committee of the Commission. The goal of this Committee is to better facilitate communication and coordination between all Continuums of Care and the Commission. In October 2013 the Homeless Services Committee recommended the adoption of the SPDAT assessment tool. In November 2013 the Department of Veterans Services announced that Chronic Veteran Homelessness would be effectively eliminated by February 2014, ahead of schedule. Co-Chair Traylor then discussed the positive impact the Commission has had on homelessness and its outcome.

Commissioner Holleran inquired what the Commission anticipated for the future, what are the Commission's best hopes, worst fears? Co-Chair Traylor expressed his fear of loss or decrease in funding, going on to express his wish that the Commission continue to encourage the Legislature to continue funding.

### **Committee Reports**

*Housing Services Committee:* Co-Chair Traylor reported on this committee stating the locator tool is up and functioning with case managers being trained. Karia Basta reported that she's meeting with the Balance of State to try to ascertain a way of locating housing vacancies easier, making the placement process more 'real time' oriented.

*Data & Studies Committee:* Terri Leveton reported for Ted Williams on this committee stating the SPDAT tool is being considered as not only an assessment tool but also as a measurement tool, to begin using its data output quantitatively as well as qualitatively. Donna Bleyle also reported on this committee informing the Commission of the merger between the Data Management Committee and Studies and Surveys Committee, forming the new Data & Studies Committee.

*Continuum of Care Committee:* Commissioner Newsom reported on this committee stating that in an effort to be more collaborative and non-repetitive the Commission will merge the Housing Services Committee with the Continuum of Care Committee. This merger should provide the Commission with a more statewide perspective and ability to coordinate efforts as it relates to Homeless Services.

### **Tucson/Pima County Coalition to end Homelessness (TPCH) "Status of Coordinated Intake" Presentation:**

Patti Caldwell of TPCH, gave a presentation on TPCH's "Status of Coordinated Intake". Patti discussed how the TPCH handles its coordinated assessment of individuals. Patti began the presentation by naming the three main tenants required by the HEARTH Act: Coordinated Entry, Standardized Assessment and Referrals to Services. Patti then discussed how TPCH generated its process of assessment and intake over the last two years; by looking at various other communities,

agencies, their systems and procedures and incorporating their best practices while maintaining TPCCH's budget restrictions and quality control. TPCCH is currently working on implementing the system. The intent is that every single assistance request goes through the coordinated assessment team system, thereby screening out the individuals who require other services and referring only homeless individuals for homeless services. The first come first serve basis will no longer be utilized and a more comprehensive assessment will be used to guide the case manager towards the individuals current needs. TPCCH is also continuing to look at some special population issues such as assisting individuals coming out of prison and jails by designing a system that's going to work well for them.

### **Arizona StandDown "Status of Chronically Homeless Veterans"**

Sean Price of AZDVS gave a presentation on the H3 Vets project which was launched in November, 2011. This program is a community-based HUD-VASH initiative to end chronic homelessness among veterans. Sean began by giving a brief history of how the H3 Vets project came to be and their collaboration with the Veteran's Affairs Administration in Washington D.C. and the local VA hospital. The VA hospitals in Phoenix approached the Arizona Coalition to end Homelessness to assist in implementing this initiative. Modeled after Project H3, the Coalition did a survey week and surveyed homeless veteran individuals on the streets to find the top 75 individuals to house. In 2012 the Coalition placed its first Veteran into permanent housing, who remains in permanent housing to this day. At the 2011 Arizona StandDown 141 chronically homeless veterans were identified. At the 2012 StandDown the number chronically homeless veterans jumped to 222, indicating a decided increase. By 2013, the H3 Vets project had identified 245 chronically homeless veterans and has worked to track and house all 245. At the 2014 Arizona StandDown scheduled in February, the Coalition plans to announce that we have reached a functional zero number of chronically homeless veterans in the Phoenix Metro area.

### **Announcements:**

- Darlene Newsom announced UMOM has partnered with Tumbleweed Youth Services to provide space that can house 30 youths (18-25) in a separate building next to UMOM's current location. Darlene Newsom announced UMOM is working with a group that includes United Way, the Chamber of Commerce and Children's Action Alliance to try to get child care subsidies re-established.
- Darlene Newsom announced she has a hope that The Housing Trust Fund will also be re-established.
- Jenifer Thornton announced the City of Sierra Vista is currently doing site improvements to one of their homeless shelters; the funding for these improvements is from the Department of Housing.
- Donna Bleyle welcomed a new ESG Program Specialist at DES, Barbara Mikkelsen.

### **Future Agenda Items:**

- DHS to discuss the Cooperative Agreement to Benefit Homelessness Individuals (CABHI) Grant at next commission meeting.
- 

### **Call to the Public:**

- No comments were issued at this time.

**Next Meeting:**

The next ACHH meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, March 18, 2014.

**Adjourn:**

Co-Chair Trailor inquired if there were any further discussion items, none were issued. Co-Chair Trailor adjourned the meeting at 11:47 a.m.